

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1 and 10 have been amended, and claim 24 has been added. No new matter is believed to have been added, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10, 15-20, and 24 are under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

In the outstanding Office Action at page 6, claims 10 and 15-20 are indicated as being allowed. Claim 10 has been amended only to provide proper antecedent basis for the lenticular lens sheet.

Claim 4 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

In the Office Action at pages 2-4, claims 1-3 and 5-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,457,572 to Ishii, et al. This rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Amended independent claim 1 is directed to a transmission screen and recites, in relevant part, "a Fresnel lens sheet through which light is projected from a projector as substantially parallel light," "a lenticular lens sheet which receives the substantially parallel light passing through the Fresnel lens sheet, and which horizontally widens and emits the substantially parallel light by means of a group of cylindrical lenses," and "a light diffusing substrate which is disposed on at least one of the Fresnel lens sheet or the lenticular lens sheet, said light diffusing substrate being separate from the Fresnel lens sheet and the lenticular lens sheet." Further, amended independent claim 1 recites that "the light diffusing substrate comprises at least two diffusing layers in which a light diffusing material is dispersed" and "each diffusing layer differs in the dispersion density of the light diffusing material."

Ishii, et al., in contrast, fails to teach or suggest a member corresponding to the separate light diffusing substrate of amended independent claim 1. Rather, according to Ishii, et al., light-diffusing fine particles are dispersed in the lenticular lens sheet. See Ishii, et al. at Fig. 1.

In a non-limiting example, certain advantages may be realized when the light diffusing substrate is disposed on the Fresnel lens sheet, and the dispersion density of the light diffusing material of the diffusing layer positioned on the outgoing (observation) side of light is higher than the dispersion density of the light diffusing material of the diffusion layer positioned on the incoming side of light. First, it may be possible to decrease scintillation and the incidence of stray light. Further, since the surface of the Fresnel lens is planar, manufacturing efficiency may be enhanced, as it is easy to form the Fresnel lens sheet using molds.

In a non-limiting example, certain advantages may be realized when the light diffusing substrate is disposed on the lenticular lens sheet, and the dispersion density of the light diffusing material of the diffusing layer positioned on the outgoing (observation) side of light is higher than the dispersion density of the light diffusing material of the diffusing layer positioned on the incoming side of light. In this configuration, since the observation surface becomes matte, it may be possible to prevent the reflection of surrounding objects in the observation surface. Further, scintillation may be decreased because the image formation distance gets longer. Additionally, as the outgoing surface of the lenticular lens sheet is planar, it may be possible to prevent bubbles from being mixed with an adhesive layer positioned between the lenticular lens sheet and the light diffusing substrate, allowing the light diffusing substrate to firmly fix to the lenticular lens sheet.

Additionally, when two diffusing layers having different light diffusing materials with different dispersion densities are used, the resolution of the light diffusing substrate may be enhanced over, for example, a light diffusing substrate which includes a clear layer and a diffusing layer which contains light diffusing material.

Manufacturing efficiency may also be enhanced because, with a separate light diffusing layer as in amended independent claim 1, surplus material left over from production of the lens sheets may be reused. Accordingly, manufacturing costs may be reduced.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

In the Office Action at pages 4-5, claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishii, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,485,308 to Hirata, et al. The reasons for the rejection are set forth in the Office Action and therefore not repeated. The rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Claims 8 and 9 depend directly from amended independent claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that Hirata, et al. fails to cure the deficiencies of Ishii, et al., as set forth above. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that Ishii, et al. and Hirata, et al., taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest all of the features of claims 8 and 9. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 8 and 9 patentably distinguish over the prior art for at least the same reasons as independent claim 1, from which they depend.

CONCLUSION

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. And further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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